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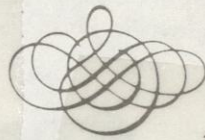
Men Who Enjoy Being Women

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Illusions

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5 years
In Photos



*Crossdressing
Beauty Pageant*

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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1 \$8.00

Dear Reader.....



Illusions is about to have another Birthday...can you believe it...its 5 years..and growing strong! Where does the time go? The growth from within our members has been fabulous and this Birthday Party should be just as exciting as ever. There are several candidates for the position of Illusions Empress...and may the best gal win! Watching the various candidates get all excited over the up and coming season..is a good sign of the strength of our Club. It was great to see so many of our ladies out at the ISCCA Ball....what a great chance to get all dolled up for a night out on the town. Several pages in this issue have been dedicated to the various events from the Ball to past festivities!

This magazine is progressing along and we want to thank the various people that have helped with articles, viewpoints and letters...keep them coming! With the shop becoming busier all the time...we really do need some helpful input from you the reader. We don't want to run dry with fresh ideas...so don't be shy... help out! We would also like to thank the ladies that linger behind after an Illusions meeting to clean up, wash dishes, tidy up etc..and generally lift a finger! We really appreciate the sharing of energies as it can be abit overwhelming for just one or two people!

This summer, it looks like the Argra group is busy working on the upcoming 3rd Rodeo. You gals need to dust off your cowgirl duds and plan for that event in July. Its a great chance to be out in a different venue and meet all sorts of new folks! Red Deer is still eager to host an Illusions evening at the Other Place Bar...so don't be shy...get out on that Pink Hiway and enjoy some moments with some Central Alberta friends. Lots to be proud of....Lots to involve yourself in. Get out of your closets and enjoy the new season!

In Daffodils and Diaphragms

Love....Barbie and Christine



Illusions editors: Barbie, Christine and Lisa

Illusions' Calendar of Events

Calgary

May 13 - TV/TS Councillor Session
May 25 - Electrolysis/Waxing
June 10 - 5th Birthday Bash
June 29 - Education Night
July 15 - 2nd Stampede BBQ
July 29 - Summer Break Party
Last Weekend in August - The Return of
The Girls of Summer. Details available in
July/August Illusions Magazine Issue.
September - We'll See You!

Red Deer

May 27 - Bar Social
And Every last Saturday
Of The Month

Our Red Deer socials take
place at:

The Other Place Bar

Bay 3 & 4, 5579-47 St.
Red Deer
342-6440

Edmonton

May 18 - Regular Social

As Christine is no longer
able to host the regular
socials after the 18th we ask
that the Edmonton ladies
pool their organising abilities
and come up with a new
venue and time to meet.

Information on Edmonton events
can still be obtained through the
Illusions phone numbers.

Attendance to Illusions Calgary and Edmonton
functions require that you be a member or
invited guest, of either Illusions or an Illusions
member.

For location information, or other details about
who we are, call:

403-236-7072 in Calgary
403-486-9661 in Edmonton

Help! I've Partied...

And I can't get up!



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Letter from the Editor Blah, Blah, Blah



Well its been quite an emotional time lately in my world. We often talk about telling our secrets to others....but in reality its a lot harder to "walk the walk than talk the talk".

In my personal world...I had a dilemma in regards to my parents. Ever since the shop was formed...only fragments of what exactly I have been up to...have been in family conversations. My feelings on telling them things were always one of fear. My folks are very right wing, Christian religious people...very deep rooted in conservative philosophies.

At times I would agonize over what to tell them and how to tell them...and then I would decide to keep quiet...it seemed safer that way.

You need to understand also that being a daughter...an only child as well...there is a relationship level that comes of that. You know the kind of relationship...where the mom always buttons up your top button...cuz you must be cold! Its really hard to stand up and say things that might offend these people for numerous amounts of reasons. FEAR.

So for 5 years now...I have let issues slide along and we have done very well at keeping things hidden. Even my kids have been trained perfectly to keep some subjects quiet and under the rug...with grama and grampa!

Last week that came to a head for me...and now I can truly say that I can understand how tough it really is...to tell something to someone that is really secretive and important and how all the fears flood right in.

I took my mom to supper and after a few useless conversations...I started with a few comments on some issues and before the half hour was up...she was asking some really valid questions about the differences of TV and TS.

Thank god for media, film and TV talk shows these days...as some of the people out there (your family and mine) are actually being educated and exposed to alternative ways along this life pathway. I was proud to show her all of the Illusions Magazines and she seemed quite impressed. She was relieved to see that it wasn't of a pornographic nature and I tried to explain to her that our focus had always been to have a vehicle for the TV/TS community that we could all be proud of. We could show it to our families and not need to keep it hidden. She was amazed at how much work has gone into it. She asked some fairly standard questions... are they gay... how do wives feel? What do you do at the Socials? What are the people like...what do they do for jobs? What kind of people are they? Is this a small segment of society or a large group? Are there women confused going the other direction?

Once we got past some of the standard educational aspects, then came the expected Grama questions.... How are the kids with all of this? They didn't ask to be born into all of this? Do the kids think this is strange? These kids are too young to fully understand these things aren't they?

I could only reply with the way that it is...the kids have the most open minds of anyone around...they don't know prejudices unless you tell them. The kids are very accepting and tolerant and sometimes I'll admit that if we think that my son in particular, is abit uncomfortable with somethings...we back off and keep it out of his way or his friends way...(we're entering the 15 year old teenage years with him...egads...that's another article..haha)...other than that, the kids have been loved and fed and are growing up like everybody else's

kids!

Anyways... I know that even though it was information overload for her...it was a very important step for me. I apologized that I had waited till now, I should of started the conversations on this subject right from the beginning when the first crossdresser customer came into the shop. Had I said something way back then, we all could of grown along with this. Choosing the silent path hasn't been the best way at all.

So my FEARS are behind me...its OUT, its been talked up and I'm sure we will have alot more questions to answer and discussions on all of these subjects.

One of my feelings while this was all taking place...that we as people shouldn't be treating these dilemmas as if they are millstones but quite the opposite. These are interesting times, people are going along in some fascinating journeys that should be looked upon as exciting.

We can't forget that these are real people, experiencing real life feelings and personal situations and support is something to be treasured and honoured.

You just never know in life how some things are going to turn out...and its probably a good thing we can't see into the crystal ball for all the answers. I do know one thing though, if you have people around you that really do deserve to know more of you...then put away your fears and share a part of yourself.. allow yourself to be vulnerable, be proud of how you feel and the outcome might take you by surprise!

This is your life...this isn't a dress rehearsal!

Lots of Love... BARBIE.

SEVEN WAYS TO TELL IF YOUR BOYFRIEND IS A CROSSDRESSER

by Teri

Lots of people have written about the issues faced by spouses of crossdressers, but what about those lucky (?) ladies just beginning a relationship with a CD who may have been too shy so far to reveal the secret? With this group in mind I have prepared a brief comparison of crossdressers and "typical" guys so they will not be too shocked when the topic eventually comes up:

CROSSDRESSER

-has at least two full-length mirrors in his apartment

-says he's going bowling the second Saturday and fourth Thursday of each month

-has a car with the driver's side vanity mirror lights burnt out

-leaves disgusting ring of "whiskers" in the bathtub

-buys a pack of Polaroid film every week but never seems to have any photos he wants to show you

-gazes longingly into your eyes wondering what type of eyeshadow you have on and how he's going to get some

-thoughtfully leaves Illusions magazine lying around in the bathroom so you can read witty articles like this one

"TYPICAL" GUY

-has one clean spot on the bathroom mirror just large enough to avoid life-threatening injuries while shaving

-says he's going bowling the second Saturday and fourth Thursday of each month (but actually owns a bowling ball)

-has a car with the driver's side vanity mirror rusted shut

-leaves disgusting ring of whiskers in the sink

-buys a pack of Polaroid film once a year and takes pictures of drunken friends you don't want to see

-gazes longingly into your eyes wondering what type of underwear you have on and how he's going to get it off

-thoughtfully leaves Popular Mechanics lying around in the bathroom so you can read how to make a CB radio out of a broken calculator and a couple of coat hangers



The Chatt
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VIEWPOINT.....

In rebuttle to the article penned by Rachael Dawn Bardeck in the Vol 4 Issue 6 of Illusions, page 14.

If Rachael would have written this article from a personal point of view and not trying to speak for the entire TS community, it may have been taken with a grain of salt as being the personal views of one individual who needs to research and understand the topic in order to comment on it intelligently.

Point One: Rachael wrote, "No one gets up one morning and decides they're going to be a TS."

Of course you don't and you don't decide to be a TS, its the way you feel and with the help of the proper doctors and results from a battery of tests you will be diagnosed as a preoperative transsexual, thereby confirming your inner feelings.

Point Two: Rachael wrote, "We have very few friends, and after we start our full time crossgender experience, we normally lose most or all of those friends."

Most people through out their lives only develop a handful of relationships with other people to the point of calling a person a friend. A friend is someone you go through lifes ups and downs, highs and lows, good turns and bad turns, through thick and thin and times where you laugh and cry together. If after a legitimate TS has a negative response from somebody they considered a friend, then this so-called friend wasn't really a friend to begin with.

Point Three: Rachael says, "If they find after living fulltime or as a transsexual for awhile, they aren't TS...."

Refer back to counter point one about being diagnosed as a TS candidate. If a person goes out on their own with no professional help and considers themselves transsexual only for a while, they're in troubled waters.

Point four: In the paragraph where Rachael talks about "TS 's saving themselves and being reborn in the gender of choice."

An individual who has been professionally diagnosed as TS has had their earliest inner feelings confirmed, therefore they don't need to let their old gender die. They may have to polish the outer exterior to match the inner feelings to convey the gender they've always been. Gender is not alterable, where as altering the physical/ sexual characteristics of a person is.

Point five: Rachael says, "It involves a serious decision that may have permanent repercussions should you later decide you are not transsexual."

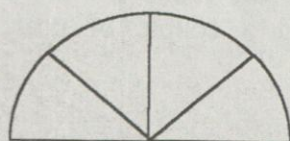
Granted there are some cases where individuals have managed to slip through the cracks and received the final surgery and realize it was the wrong decision. Of course the repercussions would be serious, but with the medical field gaining more information everyday, the chances of an individual fooling themselves or the proper medical authorities, and if the Standard of Care guide is followed, chances are very remote.

Point six: Rachael states, "If you believe you are a pre or post operative transsexual....."

As has been mentioned throughout this rebuttle, you as an individual may believe you're a transsexual candidate but without the proper diagnosis from the proper professionals, you can't consider yourself a true TS no matter how long you have been cross living or taking hormones. Further more there is no way you are going "to believe you are a post operative TS". When you reach the stage and the final surgery has been done, this isn't a grey area. You are a post operative individual, you don't have to believe it.

In closing, this rebuttle was penned by a couple of concerned individuals who couldn't let the article written by Rachael go unanswered. This rebuttle is just our thoughts and feelings on the subject and we by no means are speaking for the entire TS community throughout the world.

Sonya and Wendy.



Hi! There seems to be quite enough opinions and flavour in this issue this month...so I won't get political till next issue! Have a great Birthday!

Love Christine.

Looking out my Window

Editorial by Christine

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Words from our candidates for Empress

On June 10 Illusions will host our 5th royalty pageant. Below are platforms from some of our candidates who are in the running.

Jaqui for Empress

Jacqui stands for fun at the club. As Empress I will do my utmost to help all of our members achieve their goal of expressing their feminine traits to the fullest. I will make myself available to represent Illusions at all our meetings as well as in our community to help promote understanding of crossdressing. Only when we remove fear of the unknown can we be truly free. Please cast your vote for Jacqui, the cutest little cowgirl around!

URGENT NEWS FLASH

Dame Dana, Doll of the Desert, has decided to toss her boa into the beauty parlour and enter the sashay for the world famous title of ILLUSIONS EMPRESS V! The platforms she will be standing on are silver, her two major issues will be well covered in sequins and her assets will shake rattle and roll! As an early member of ILLUSIONS (#14) I have seen the club grow and mature into the fine organization that we now all enjoy! The only areas that I feel need to be addressed are:

- A. To increase our activities with other groups such as the ISCCA and AGRA with the intent of making our group more prominent in the gender community!
- B. To organize a support/welcoming group for new members!
- C. To have more socials/outings in small or large groups with increased advance notice!

SO KIDS....VOTE FOR ME!

AN INTERVIEW WITH MICHELLE HART

We recently caught up with Michelle who is one of the candidates for this years ILLUSIONS EMPRESS V contest and conducted the following short interview:

Q. Michelle, do you want to change things if you become EMPRESS?

A. No not really, if elected, I would like to add my own signature to my reign, but I can see ways of doing that without changing things, personally I like things pretty much as they are! I would like to spend some time trying to find new places for us to go out around town as our femme selves and I would like to see us spending more time supporting other related groups such as the ISCCA. But mostly I would just like to represent my ILLUSIONS sisters well in what ever our opportunities turn out to be throughout the coming year!

Q. Michelle, do you have any dislikes?

A. Well...I really don't like Trolls and Dwarfs, but I do like Fairy Tales, Elves and Santa Clause.

Q. Any last words Michelle?

A. Sure...VOTE FOR ME!

Hi Illusionettes!

There is no official job description for Illusions Empress, so the position is basically what the incumbent makes of it. I think the Empress should be someone who will be a catalyst to get things done. She should be prepared to pitch in and do more than her share, but she cannot accomplish much without a lot of help from her Princesses, the Social committee, and the membership at large, so she should be good at encouraging people to get involved. She should also be someone people will feel comfortable having represent the club. She should have ideas, but recognize she has no monopoly on inspiration and be flexible enough to adjust according to feedback from the membership as well as from Barbie and Christine.

I promise that won't be the end of my ideas if I'm elected, and even if I'm not I'll do my best to try and put them into practice by supporting whoever is and nudging them in these directions if the feedback is positive. Please let me know what you think!

Teri

If you are planning to enter this year's pageant, please let Barbie or Christine know before the end of May. See you at the party!

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This **Chit Chat** is with LISA
our current **Empress of Illusions**.

Illusions...How has your reign been as Empress this year?

Lisa: I found that it went by very fast! I set out to encourage more social activities at the club and just to get people to participate rather than to observe..

Illusions...Has that been successful?

Lisa: Yeh I think it has. I see alot more people coming to the meetings and we have a really strong social committee. The girls of the group are able to control meetings by themselves and some are running for the Empress position. Because we did so much together... the strength is showing.

I: Lets talk about LISA...Lets go way back....when did you first have any feelings toward this hobby?

Lisa: Every since I was six years old. I'm sure most girls would agree on that. It wasn't until I was in my 20's before I could enjoy this though. Its a shame that we waste our youth on so called beauty and denial.

I:When did you first come out of your closet?

Lisa: Which closet?

I: How many closets do you have, girlfriLisa:end?

Lisa: Of course there's one for clothes and others for ideas! In recent years I have been stepping out of the darkness of my closet on this journey of awareness. And that's thanks to emotional security and friends who help encourage me to be myself.

I: Would you like to be a woman all the time?

Lisa: Sorry no, I don't think so...but half the time is fun! On a personal level I've seen too many people struggle with the concept that they are a woman and that's not the course I'm going or the struggle I'm prepared to take on. I'm happy with my genders but I sure admire the people that go through the transition from m to f.



do that's extraordinary...but I do have my own little techniques. I like hip padding.. that's essential. I don't want to look like a straight stick with breasts. I've learned alot about makeup over the last few years and part of that thanks... goes to someone who isn't around anymore. This pal of mine that also crossdressed.. showed me some really cool techniques and where to purchase really quality stuff.. like the MAC line.

I: Can we talk about a sensitive subject here?

Lisa: And that is

I: When did you first come through Illusions' doors?

Lisa: When there wasn't an Illusions door! It was when you were next door at Lovers Leap. There was a small group then and I attended a few socials but the guilt caught up with me and I was travelling out of the country for a year soon, so I put Lisa behind and maybe forever at that point.

I: What made you come back?

Lisa: Crossdressing always catches up with you anyways. But by this point I was really starting to think that I really do enjoy this and why would I want to throw these clothes and personality out?

I: Has Lisa seen any growth in herself? Any noticable changes?

Lisa: I think the most obvious is the way I can dress now, makeup and hair....I have chosen a clothing style that's pretty casual but I still love the party stuff. Again that's just part of learniong about yourself and being comfortable with this. As you do this for awhile you realize that being a woman isn't just frilly clothes..its attitude and being a woman in the most minimal of ways.

I: How did you get the name Lisa?

Lisa: It was a message from above.. a voice said... Lisa... Lisa... Lisa... Seriously I really like the name.. many girls of my generation got that name.

I: What does Lisa's routine consist of for getting ready?

Lisa: Piece by piece...there's nothing I

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privacy considerations.

sexual fantasy. This seems to be a common fantasy around here that I have heard. ..but really when we have so many crossdressers who state that they are heterosexual.. why do they expect their wives to be homosexual. This is why I'm not pushing the issue anymore at home.. tolerance is the least I should expect.

I: Don't you think though that this... just tolerance... spills over into other areas of your life together and wedges it abit.. or alot?

Lisa: Well sure but in our circumstance... its mostly the crossdressing that causes the problem. It would be great if I was on a football team and putting in as much time with the guys.. but when I'm with the guys that are girls... that's a different matter.

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I:Lets get to Illusions stuff? What would you like to see the new Empress accomplish or pursue?

Lisa: I would like to see her do a strip tease at all functions? I think that Illusions has come far enough now that we shouldn't be shy about ourselves. My goal on the onset of being Empress was probably a departure from our past Empresses as I made this position political... for good or bad this may continue with our new Empress... that's her choice.

I: Ok...lets bitch here.... what has been a thorn along the way?

Lisa: People who demand but don't give back. There's been the odd individual who has done that here and I know that shouldn't bring any

bearing on the people who really do try here... but it is discouraging to hear complaints, no action, and lack of commitment. So many times after an Illusions function I see people just leave and never lend a hand in cleaning up and its happening with the magazine all the time... or even on the simple level of keeping the place tidy throughout the day. Some people don't realize how unique this place is and how fragile it actually is too. If any of us where to travel to any of the larger Canadian cities... we would be hard pressed to find a club as large and accessible as this one. So if there's a lack of help then it wouldn't take much for this whole thing to fade away... and that would be tragic.

I draw a parallel with other organized groups in our society... such as rugby teams or Kiwanis etc... these people donate hours and even money to the cause... but yet here... we can't get people to pay for coffee or put in their \$2 for a magazine rental.

I: What do you see as the future for Lisa?

Lisa: I'll always be Lisa and I will grow old gracefully as your past Empress. I hope I've given some inspiration to other gals here and confidence. I'm not trying to brag... I've just tried to do these things.. best way I know how. When I see this place grow and more participation happening... It will be better place for me to come to and of course I wouldn't have to take on as many duties as we'd all be helping out. I have harped on this issue so many times at the club and in my articles... I do sometimes feel like a gerbil on a treadmill.

BARBIE: Well on behalf of the girls that really do appreciate all the work that you have done... thank you very much... its been the first year that both Christine and I have been able to hand over the reigns of organizing activities each social. Burn out is really easy to come by... so personally I thank you for taking our energy and running with it.

I: Any last thoughts then for the new Empress?

Lisa: Well maybe she can build on a regret that I have from my reign, and that is in the lack of participation and contact with related groups in the alternative community. Diane and I attended some functions but there are so many and if our new Empress could have a voice within them, then Illusions would have a stronger voice.

This isn't always easy.. there's only 24 hours in a day and somewhere along the way you're going to want to dr

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I: Got any words of wisdom?

Lisa: Don't wear one size panty hose. Don't wear mini skirts to the mall and for heavens sake shave before putting on makeup! But seriously..... I said before that I made this Empress position political and that's not really the fun of crossdressing is it? So from my personal experience... you have to stop thinking crossdressing is a sin! That...., you're going to get caught, ...you'll lose your job or your wife, ...well you might and some have... but on the grand scheme of things.. this is a very fulfilling and harmless activity. Enjoy this, if the saying is true that you only go through this once.. what a waste this would be if you shunned it all your life. Remember I said about the gerbil on the treadmill.... you'll hear many crossdressers say just what I've said.. but it's simply the truth.... this is a wonderful thing to be blessed with not one gender but two! Be the envy of your friends wear a dress..

BI LISA!

from your royalty with the loyalty...

On the anniversary of each Illusions year, our membership chooses its new Empress and Princesses. The 94-'95' royalty are Empress Lisa, Princesses Diane and Ursula

Throne Speech

And we we're just getting used to it...

Cinderella's ball came and went very fast, she was just getting into the full swing of the evening when the hour of twelve arrived telling her she had to go home and be her waif-like self again. The clock has struck for us too; Ursula, Diane and I are at the end of our reign as Illusions 4th Royalty, thank goodness we don't have to go home in a pumpkin pulled by mice!

Like many a step down or wrap up speech, I'll tell you that this was a tremendous year at Illusions. Well sure it was...our social committee raised a handsome profit from the many events we sponsored and of course that money has and will continue to subsidise Illusions parties and prizes. We had many new pretty faces show up at the club. Our new friends have mixed in well, a tribute to our open attitude and open handed approach. Thankyou for making our new members feel at home ladies. We didn't lose to many of the familiar faces either, our senior membership remains firm, thanks to the new members and to our increased social calendar. I trust that this tradition will continue.

I tip my tiara to Princess Diane, who helped me with this year's organising. She truly is an asset to this club. I'll never forget that on the night of our coronation she gave me a gift, a Safeway cashier's uniform. I had joked with her that because I used to work at the store I secretly wanted to try that white dress on, she answered my fantasy. I wore that dress for a performance at the Girls of Summer II party, what a laugh! Diane has a way of finding anything, she's quite the shopper. Have you noticed that she never wears the same dress twice?

It's too bad that Princess Ursula wasn't closer. But that's OK, we all have commitments. She sure wowed us at the coronation, I hope to see her do a step down performance at this year's party.

and thank you to...

Hey, thanks to the rest of the social committee, our team really came through. Say that sounds like football talk? Well instead of calling Colleen, Melanie, Teri, Karen and Fredelle the front line let's call them the cheerleading team. They got this group up for fun and put in alot of personal hours to make it so. Take the time to thank these ladies, they deserve it. Some of the committee ladies will be stepping down this summer, so that leaves you, yah you...to join in on the fun of organising future parties, let me know and you're welcome.

Have you noticed how our club's look has changed in the past year? There's no room left on the pink walls, for decorations, silver streamers hang behind the stage, lights illuminate it, a fan cools the room, and parties have seasonal touches. This is a result from the labours of our friend Darryl, the nice guy you see helping out at the back of B & B during business hours. Darryl's meticulous work is much appreciated, let him know, he does it for us on his own time!

As crowned Empress, I received a gift of a pair of shoes from Dixie at Crossland, they are lovely Dixie, and thankyou very much. I was also was awarded roses, jewellery and make-up by Barbie and Christine of B & B our Illusions hosts. The gifts along with my sweet crystal Tiara are lovely.

Lovely They Are!

And on the subject of lovely, this is my tribute to our club founders Barbie and Christine. Of course they are my co-editors of this magazine and may 'erk' at the sight of this but, too bad. My deepest thanks to you two for starting this great little club, you have nobly made this labour of love a success and your strength is admired by many including me. I shall always cherish the friendship and support you have given. All the best in the next five years and may there be more ontop of that.

Now, The Brass Tacks...

It's a shame that I have to conclude this farewell article with a drop of my heels, but I have to tell you that I was recently very close to walking away from Illusions.

I was angry. At a fault that was my own. It seems that I had put in hundreds of hours into a magazine and social club organising only to feel that I was wasting my time. I had sacrificed my personal life and traded time-off hours at work in order to accomplish the tasks.

I became aware that I wasted my time because there were people who 'bitched' on mute points of the magazine's content or whined because they weren't in the spotlight, of course never offering alternatives or help for that matter. Then when it came to organised activities, I would hear the word: "lame", or "stupid", again never hearing suggestions from the pious cynics or seeing them help in any way at the club.

I wondered why I give up so much for so little return. Of course I never expected money or to have my feet kissed for the effort. I love helping out the cause of transgenderism and I learn more about myself by being intimately involved in it. The intimacy is the problem you see. When you sacrifice for the thing you love

continued next page, Sacrifice

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genderpress, box 500-62, 552 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario Canada M4Y 2E3

Since I have very little time before I must relinquish my Princess title, I thought that I might try my hand at royal musing. I have now seen royalty from the perspective of both leader and follower so I think I can now make the following comments and observations

In Britain there have been rumblings among the loyal subjects that the monarchy has outlived its usefulness and therefore has got to go. They view the monarchy as being pompous, arrogant, lazy, greedy and a few other less than flattering adjectives. The royals give very little and demand the respect and adoration which they percieve to be their birth-right. But within the alternative communities the respect for the elected royalty is thriving. Why the vast discrepancy? To put it simply, Royalty in the alternative community derives no monetary gain from holding the position. They are elected solely to represent the community and in the case of our local gay community they occasionally perform at the local night-spots to raise funds for appropriately oriented non-profit organizations that fulfill needs within the community. When the year has concluded the alternative community gathers at its grand social function to show their respect to the in coming and out going royalty and to thank the descending royalty for the service that they have rendered to the community. The function is a very lavish and extravagant affair which is designed to show the strong support the community has for its royalty.

Cheated...continued

and you get slapped in the face because of it, you feel cheated.

I cooled my anger, realising that I couldn't blame individuals for my hurt. I had stretched my time constraints too far, taking on too much. I had to expect that others will have to put time in too, if they want a quality magazine and social club. The onness can't be on a small, select group of people.

I also realised that there are those who do give time and encouragement, they're efforts outshine the negative group's ways: and for this club those special-positive people get what they put into it. A great place to be and grow! That leads me back to all those people I thanked at the beginning of this article, they make it count. Let them know it, perhaps they wonder if they are putting in time for nothing.

So for our forthcoming Empress and Princesses, I wish you all the best in your reign I know your efforts can and will be appreciated.

Love for now and all Lisa

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Illusions Magazine

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Volume 3 Issue 1 May/June '93-----

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Volume 3 Issue 3 Sept/Oct '93-----

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Volume 3 Issue 5 Jan/Feb '94-----

Volume 3 Issue 6 Mar/Apr '94-----

Volume 4 Issue 1 May/June '94-----

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----hey girls!
Join Empress Lisa,
Princesses Diane
and Ursula at the
5th Birthday Party,
June 10 at Illusions.
Tickets are \$10 in
advance or \$15 at
the door.

The Pink Highway

- Journeys beyond club walls-

No we didn't have an orgy in a Red Deer bar, but we did add a little sizzle to the evening as a number of Illusions gals put on a mini fashion show at the Other Place Bar in Red Deer by modelling the latest latex creations by Dave & Kelly of Dark Side Creations. These sensual second-skin garments attracted a lot of looks and attention from the regular bar patrons as the girls danced and strutted the night away. These same latex creations previously turned a lot of heads at the the Miss Calgary pageant as the contestants slid their voluptuous bodies into the form fitting outfits and strutted their stuff down the runway, and who could attract more attention than a beautiful lady in a rubber dress? Answer: A beautiful man in a rubber dress! All in all it was another fun evening at the Other Place Bar in Red Deer, but since our Illusions gal Dana, who was responsible for co-ordinating the socials in Red Deer has relocated to another city, our monthly socials may be somewhat curtailed but we will return sometime in the near future because fun places are so hard to find. We wish Dana all the best at her new location.

In Leather and Latex
XOXOXO Princess Di

Ready To Step Out

Welcome to the world of crossdressers. You have now reached the time in your life, where you have made the decision to fulfil your fantasy to a higher level. Until now you have been dressing at home, and you want to broaden your fantasy by leaving home dressed, but you have an extremely nervous feeling about doing so!

In the beginning everyone of us have experienced the same feeling. Speaking for myself the first time I dressed to go out was late evening. I had gone to another members home to have some alterations done on a skirt, she gave me a dress which would no longer fit her. My friend encouraged me to wear it home which I did.

The word nervous does not adequately describe the feeling I experienced, that evening on the way home. I was convinced beyond a reasonable doubt, that everybody in their cars and even the people on the sidewalk were would be staring at me. Perhaps some of them did, but if so they did not pay a lot of attention to me.

I would not personally advise everyone to travel alone on their first venture out dressed. May I suggest that you have a friend accompany you. Possibly a close friend that accepts your lifestyle or ask another member of Illusions to accompany you.

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This way you are not likely to be bothered by most people. Some will smile at you, some will stare at you, but most people never look at who is in the car next to them. Even if you are stopped at a light or in the flow of traffic.

Gradually you will begin to feel comfortable when you are out in the car dressed. Before venturing out plan your route to your destination so that you will arrive as soon as possible. Also have an alternate route should you need to use one for any reason. Always remember to travel on well lit road ways. Never take a road you are not familiar with especially if you are alone.

In the late fall and in the winter months, going out dressed is much easier as it gets dark early. During the spring and summer months, you may feel a bit uncomfortable with going out dressed. If you are may I suggest going to a friends place to dress, or if it is the regular club meeting dress there. This way you will have a safe and enjoyable outing.

It is my belief that as time goes on and you gain more confidence there will always be that slight feeling of nervousness. This will serve to remind you to be cautious when you are out. Hopefully you will be able to avoid any undue stress, from those who do not understand our lifestyle or choose not to accept it.

Always travel with your doors locked, this will prevent anyone from surprising you. If you feel the need for some fresh air do not lower the windows anymore than a half inch, this will prevent anyone from grabbing you through the open window.

It is our sincere hope that all of your outings dressed, will be safe and as enjoyable as possible. Hopefully you will find our suggestions helpful. Love Michelle & Randi

From Edmonton

GOWN TO TOWN

*The Illusions gals attend the 1995
ISCCA 'Nocturnal Instincts in My
Secret Garden' Coronation*
Reported by Princess IV Diane

The venue may have been changed from the posh surroundings of the Marlborough Inn to the considerably smaller confines of the Westward Inn, but the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch Coronation Ball always generates the excitement, pomp, pageantry and spectacle which makes it THE event to attend on the Calgary's alterative community calander.

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Due to a lack of interest shown for the position of Supreme Empress the lone candidate for the position, Donna 'Do Ya Wanna' was elected by acclamation but never the less the crowd showed it's enthusiasm and support for the 'Lady' who would ascend the throne to preserve the tradition of royalty, which serves such an important part in generating the social focus and cohesiveness within the Gay community.

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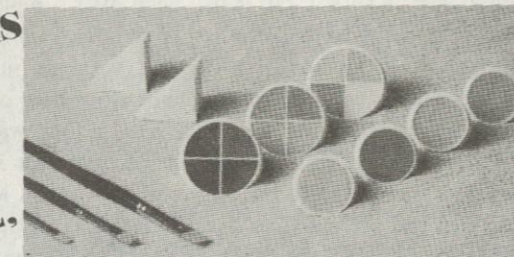
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LETTERS

Dear Barbie & Christine: Boy, (or should I say Girl), does time fly! It seems that we just

moved here yesterday but it has been over 6 months. Our home is beautiful in this small town of 3,000 people yet within commuting distance to Toronto. I have been travelling all over Canada (except Calgary) and the northeastern US on business. Although we enjoy southern Ontario, we miss our friends in Alberta.

As you know I belong to a couple of clubs here in Toronto. Neither has a club house so I have got used to getting "in face" and going out to events in public. What a long way I have come from about a year ago when I first came to your store and when Barbie said Hello I was out of that door so fast!! Here in Toronto the first time I went out, I was staying at an apartment near a really busy part of downtown. My heart was pounding a mile a minute when my high heels first hit the sidewalk. The second time I went out I was being met by a fellow CDer and while I was coming down the stairs she was forced to go around the block by a police car that wouldn't let her wait in a no parking spot. Me, not knowing this, found myself stranded wondering what to do next. Fortunately she came around the block again and I collapsed, gratefully in not gracefully, into her car!

I have got used to going out on my own and buying jewellery and makeup. After all who is going to query a 250lb Mama anyway!

We are looking forward to our special weekend as the Pillar and Post hotel in Niagara on the Lake. About 40 Ceders and supporters are expected to enjoy the weekend. Pat is renting a tuxedo for Saturday nite and I will be wearing my blue evening gown (created exclusively by Barbie, of course) with white accessories. Exclusive photos of this "fashion plate" will be sent to your Illusions magazine - so National Enquirer eat your heart out! What an adventurer I have become.

My plans are that "The Trollop from Toronto" will be visiting Calgary late May or early June. I'll phone ahead, so that I'll get a chance to visit. Say hi to everyone from me and I'll see you soon.

Love Melissa

Dear Christine: Your newsletter is very good and continually gets better. I enjoy what the girls have to say and they are the reason I want to be a member of your club. I am very thankful for your patience and understanding. From your new member....Chelsea #175.

Dear Illusions: I am a crossdresser and learning more about my feminine self now that I have allowed her to come out and be apart of my life. With the support of my loving wife, who is becoming really involved in this part of me, is a great coach; I have been encouraged to venture forth. It is my goal to be able to go out publicly and be recognized as a female. Your club magazine was given to me by a very close friend. I was delighted with the information, articles and ads. I feel your club will be a great place to visit and become a member.

Unfortunately I live in BC, so I would not be able to attend/visit the club very often. Perhaps becoming a member and receiving the Illusions magazine regularly would be helpful anyways. I want to become as comfortable and passable as I possibly can. Any help or tips are welcomed.

The story of Michelle Hart is somewhat similar to my experiences. Upon reading your magazine, I am delighted to know there are many people with the same needs as I have. It makes it easier to cope and to overcome some of the feelings of being odd or different.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to reach out. Sincerely Beverly



....Guess Who's New At the Club?....

#351 JILL Been crossdressing since about 12 years old!

#352 DARLENE Presently in the closet, middle aged, divorced TV. Need help with makeup and passing and would like to meet others. Always feminine at home.

#353 SUSAN Really looking forward to becoming involved with others.

#354 ALLISON Out of the Closet Finally! Other interests like the outdoors and photography.

#355 TRACY Welcome aboard

#356 TRINA Student of University!

Attention all Volunteers!

Illusions could use your help in the daily cleaning of club facilities, contribution to the library and donations of coffee, cream, and sugar.

RuPaul has been hired as the spokesmodel for MAC Makeup. Frank Toskan, a cofounder of MAC, the Toronto-based cosmetics company, says **RuPaul** - who lives in New York - is the first man to have such a cosmetics contract. Toskan says he expects some people to be offended by the hiring of the 6'7" RuPaul, who dresses in platinum wigs and wears tons of makeup.

The Illusions Social Club

This may be repeating the many tributes bestowed upon Barbie, Christine, and the Illusions Social Club. All of us owe a great deal of thanks to Barbie and Christine. For their dedication and perseverance in getting our club started. Although it was a small group in the beginning it has grown and will continue to do so. Barbie and Christine have a special ability to organize and promote an idea. They treat each of us as someone special, and are always ready to take the time to talk to us about our lifestyle, and help each of us to gain self confidence. The many articles they write in our magazine, are designed to help us feel more comfortable with our lifestyle.

Each one of us at some time in our past have wondered what is this strange desire we have, why we were attracted to ladies clothing. We are sure most of the members of Illusions found them selves looking in the ladies clothing section of mail order catalogues as well as department store flyers delivered to their homes. As well as wondering through the malls paying special attention to the individual ladies wear stores.

At one time or another when ever the opportunity arose we tried on our sister's, or mother's even wives clothes and felt absolutely wonderful in them. This brought on a great desire to have our own personal collection, but where we could hide them from our families because of the fear of being found out.

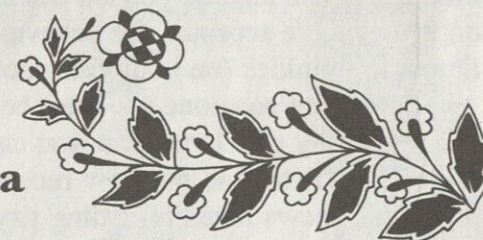
All of this changed when we discovered the Illusions club, and found we were not alone in our desire to put on ladies clothes, and be comfortable wearing them.

Once again we say thank you to Barbie, Christine and the Illusions social club for their support. We will always be greatful to the Executive board of the club. In their continuing efforts to promote, and organize the many social events for all of us to enjoy.



Love Joanne And Randi
From Edmonton

A Tribute To Dana



Greetings to the ladies from Red Deer and Calgary, from the ladies from Edmonton. I have attended the social evenings at 'The Other Place' in Red Deer on two occasions and had a wonderful evening at both functions.

Our Red Deer hostess Dana has a natural ability to keep things moving, and get all the ladies involved. Whether it be on the dance floor, or at the billiard tables, or doing lipsynk. Dana is an absolutly incredible gal, and I'm sure all the Illusions Ladies who have come to know her will be forever greatful for her efforts, and will always have fond memories to look back on. It appears Dana will soon be leaving Red Deer, so let us all wish her the very best in the future. Once again thank you Dana.

Love Joanne and all the gals from Edmonton

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GUESS WHAT, BILL...

by Teri

Crossdressers face many difficult questions. Am I straight? Gay? Bi? TS? Was I born this way or was I influenced along the way? Should I wear the pink skirt or the polka dot dress to Illusions this Saturday?

With so many questions and fresh memories of the emotional turmoil of first making contact with others it's not surprising the question of who to tell often gets pushed to the back burner. When the question does come up, it is likely to focus on spouses and children. Other members whose personal circumstances have given them better insights in this area have already written about telling them. But who else should you tell?

Since most CDs have spent the better part of their lives hiding, the initial reaction of most would be "no one!". After all, even in an area as well known as this for open-mindedness and steadfast government protection of the rights of those pursuing non-mainstream lifestyles (yeah, right!) there are some risks. These should not be exaggerated, however: a wrong decision might cost you your job, home and friends, but what the heck, who needs to live indoors when summer's coming anyway?

Aside from the possible spiritual and health benefits of living outdoors and renouncing material goods, is there any upside to telling others? Well, for one thing it can relieve a great deal of stress about disclosure once you know that those who are important to you (for personal or professional reasons) won't desert you due to some minor slip (like finding one under the coffee table). You can take some pride in encouraging acceptance of crossdressers by the public: you will almost certainly be the first one anyone you tell has ever known, and it will be a lot harder for them to condemn others once they have accepted the behavior in someone they know. And of course, it will save you a lot of time and wrinkles (on both your face and clothes) hiding your stuff every time someone comes over.

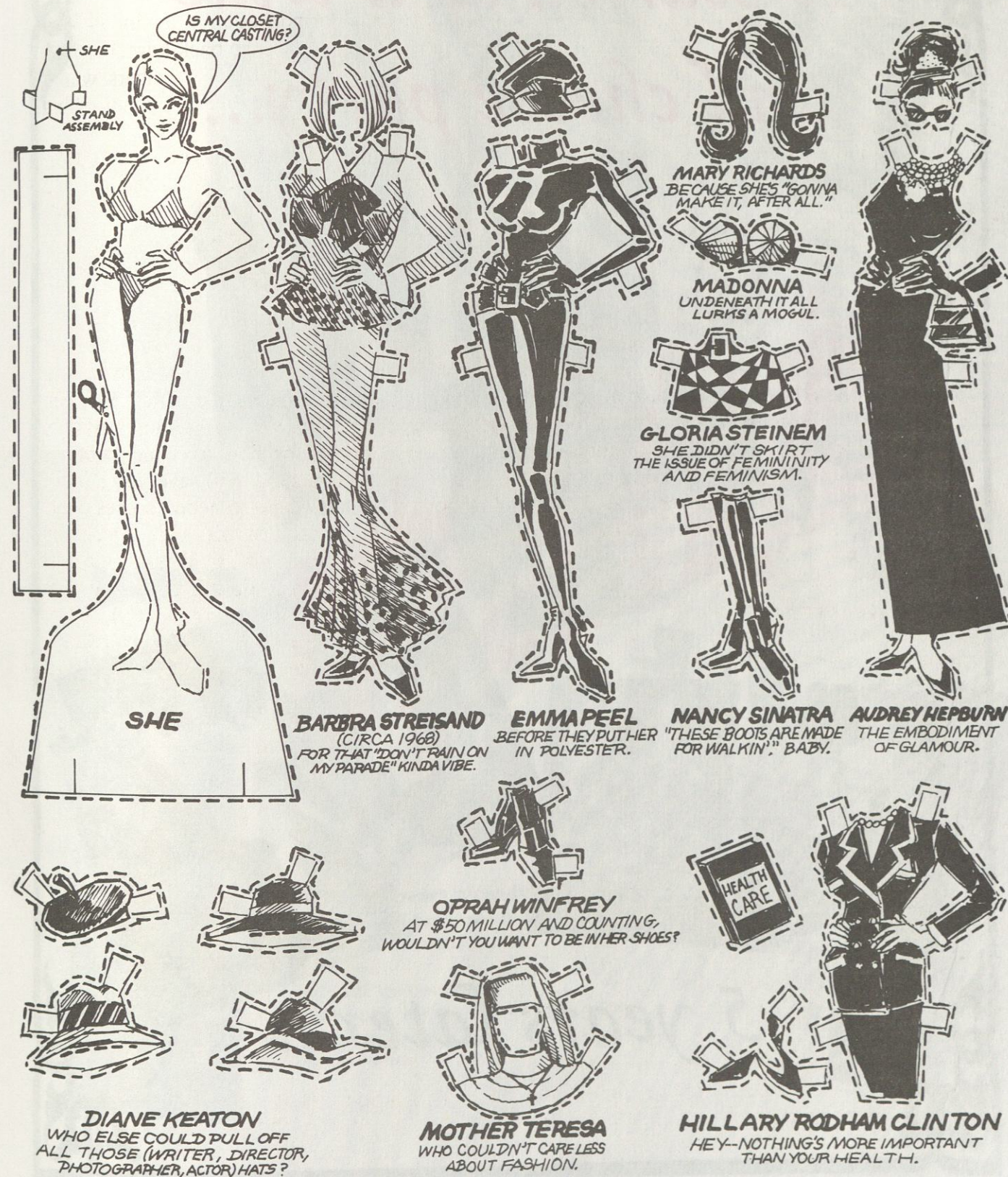
Telling someone need not be as traumatic as you might think if handled with care. Once you have carefully concluded that you can live with the worst possible way someone could react, the first thing to do is to find out how receptive they are likely to be. A good way to do this is to note their reaction to news items regarding gay issues (human rights protection, same-sex benefits, etc.). While few crossdressers are actually gay, views towards the two groups are likely to be closely related: someone who hates gays probably isn't going to change their view just because the guy in the skirt says he's straight.

The next thing is to plan your approach. I have found the most important thing here is to have a good photo of yourself. Forget that shot with the black leather, chains and whipped cream; find your most passable shot with nice clothes and (especially important) good beard cover (you can tell them about the black leather, chains and whipped cream later; one thing at a time, gals). Most people's images of CDs have been formed by Far Side cartoons of overweight middle-aged guys with two-days of stubble and hairy backs shoe-horned into garters, fishnet stockings and bras stuffed with grapefruit, so having a visual aid that shows you don't look ridiculous will be very comforting (if you are an overweight middle-aged guy with two days of stubble and a hairy back shoe-horned into garters, fishnet stockings and a bra stuffed with grapefruit, consider getting a makeover before you dig out the Polaroid). Find a time when you won't be interrupted and be prepared to answer questions openly.

My own experiences have been uniformly positive, ranging from the "so what's" of colleagues to extreme interest by an aunt who, I think, was relieved to find out I wasn't quite as boring as my everyday persona made it seem. One couple I've known for about 15 years said they were touched that I felt close enough to them to reveal such a personal thing. But the best response was from my brother-in-law, who pondered the idea for a while and after a considerable silence said "well, I guess that's twice as many things I can get you for Christmas".

Now if I can just figure out a way to drop a hint about those rhinestones down at Torso....

SHE



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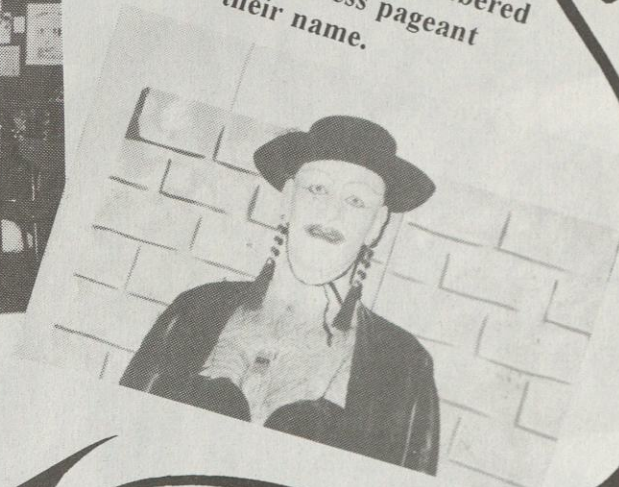
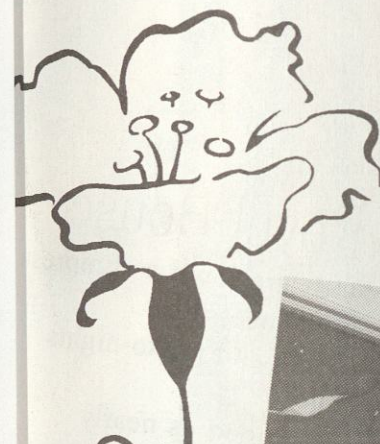
we had to move

Bursting at the seams, our club and Barbie's and Bryan's business took over space next door to our shared facilities. Thanks to the hard work of club members we built our very own facilities in the summer of 1991 and were ready to go in september. A new shop for clothing, a meeting room, make-up area and private entry. All in pink!

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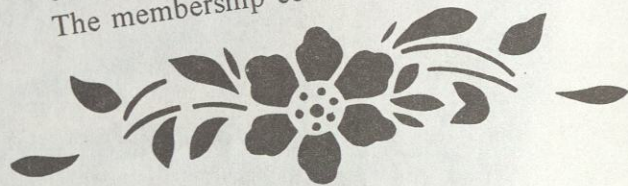
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Gone, but never forgotten...
Through '91-'92 we were blessed with the talents of two very funny and special people. Known as the Sasquatch Sisters, Terry and Ryan entertained us with their many hilarious characters. Their succumbing to Aids, was a tragic blow to many, but they are remembered at Illusions with our Empress pageant trophy which is in their name.

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The next Royal House
Our new blue-bloods are Jaqui as Empress,
Terri and Karen as Princesses.
Cool parties, fake-furs and photo-nights
filled the year.
Princess Karen entertained us nearly
every Saturday night.
The membership continues to grow.



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1993 - 1994

A great year for all. Wendy became Empress, Lisa and Randi Princesses. The first *Girls of Summer* party raised funds for the library, \$1000 was given to local charity and Barbie and Christine were married at a party that will be raved about for many years.

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Now that you have seen the fun

Join Us!

Information on joining *Illusions* is at the beginning of the Registry

AND...

Be at our 5th Birthday Party

**OUR BIGGEST
PARTY OF THE YEAR**
*Entertainment
Prizes and Gifts
Cake
and the Coronation of
Illusions 5th Royalty*



Vying for the crown of Empress and Princesses are:

*Christine, Dana, Gina, Jacqui,
Karen, Michelle and Teri*

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$1.00 AT B & B OR ON CLUB NIGHTS. GET 'EM NOW AS IT'S \$1.50 AT THE DOOR

Saturday, June 10 - Be there before 8pm

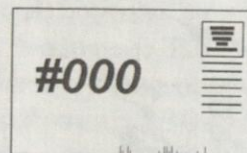
Please bring a gift for an anonymous *Illusions* member
and you'll get a gift too! (Approximate Value \$10)

...welcome to the *Illusions* Registry...

Look through the
next 10 pages and meet us.

- We are a group of over 200 crossdressers, transsexuals and friends. We provide a safe, discrete and welcoming atmosphere.
- We get together at low-key meetings and party nights at our facility. Sponsored guests are welcome.
- We maintain discretion and cleanliness.

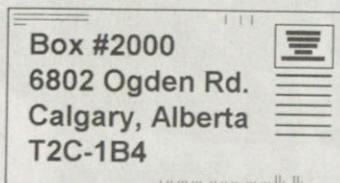
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- Affix postage
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- Add \$2



- Your letter and the \$2 go into another envelope and are mailed to this address

Your now on the way to meeting new friends

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This is part of the Illusions Registry where individuals can place an ad beyond the scope of the regular registry. Where discretion is needed, inexpensive business advertising, or the sale of personal items this is the venue. Respond to these ads as you do with the registry.

The rates per issue, including GST are:

Personal Ads \$10.70

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Illusions Newsletter assumes no responsibility for unpleasant encounters or sales as a result of the classified ads. Illusions Newsletter will not be responsible for lost or misdirected mail. Classified ads will not be accepted over the phone; please place your ad in person or through the mail.

Join the ladies of Illusions

Your membership with us gets you:

- 6 Illusions magazines, sent either to your door, box or the club
- Free advertisement in the magazine registry
- Privilege to attend Illusions socials
- Check out of club library materials
- Use of club changing, make-up and lounging facilities during the day

Your's for only \$40

If you are in the Calgary area, visit us at the shop of Lingerie by Barbie-B & B Leatherworks. This is the address:

Illusions Social Club
6802 Ogden Rd S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2C-1B4
Canada

If you are from out of town, write us to the above address. Tell us about yourself, send a photo if you want to be in the registry and include a cheque or money order in Canadian funds for \$40 made out to *Illusions Social Club*.

If you prefer to just receive the magazine, no problem. We'll send it to you in a plain brown wrapper. The price is still \$40.

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#348 LAURIE Young TV involved with supportive girlfriend, new to crossdressing. Both enjoy femme outings & meeting other CD'ers. Looking for correspondence / photo exchange with other TV's.

#349 Jennifer #350 Felicia #351 Jill #352 Darlene #353 Susan #354 Allyson #355 Tracy #356 Trina

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Letters to Illusions

The Classifieds

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'THE ILLUSIONS' CLASSIFIED'

#1001 Mistress Black - Edmonton, Alta. 6'4" Goddess in black leather, 30 yrs. young, TV. Looking for the right subject to serve my whims. Enjoys bondage and discipline. Consideration given to sincere honest responses. Your picture gets fast response. So tell me your fantasies and we'll see what happens.....

#1002 Craig - Very attractive successful white male, 34, 6'2", 185 lb. Seeks sexy TS's and TV's for friendship and clean, safe fun. I'm very open minded. Write me and you won't be disappointed!

#1003 Greg - Edmonton, Alta. Bi-TV, 27, 5'10", Hardbody, clean, safe, sane. Seeking close friendship with females or TV's who enjoy Latex Rubber, Leather, PVC, Corsets, Nylons, Heels, B/D, S/M, Role Playing and Fetish Fantasies. Please send a Photo and Letter.

#1004 JUDY'S FASHION COLLECTION Friendship Welcome, I have three years of "Club" membership (#264) and wish to hear from you! Ph:477-3981 ; 11514 - 97 St. Edmonton, Alta., T5G 1X8

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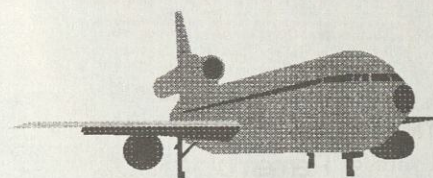
Would you like to advertise your business or service in this magazine?

This publication reaches hundreds of enthusiastic TV's, TS's and friends across Canada and the United States.

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Contact: TCNE
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Woburn, MA 01888 - 0483
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Phyllis Randolph Frye 713 - 723 - 8368
fax - 713 - 723 - 1800

SPICE - July 27 - 30

For Spouses of Gender Gifted Males
Memphis, TN
Contact - Linda Peacock
P.O. Box 24031
Little Rock, AR 72221
501 - 227 - 8798

PARADISE IN THE POCANOS - Sept 14 - 17

Canadensis, Pennsylvania
Contact - CDS, P.O. Box 61263
King Of Prussia, PA 19406 USA
610 - 640 - 9449

SOUTHERN COMFORT - Sept 27 - Oct 1

Atlanta, Georgia
Contact - Southern Comfort
P.O. Box 77591
Atlanta, GA 30357 USA

MARDI GRAS '95 - September 28 - Oct 1

Presented by The Monarch Social Club
Divine Lake Resort, Muskoka Lakes, Ontario
Contact - Mardi Gras '95 Committee

Mississauga 'A'
P.O. Box 386

Mississauga, Ont. Canada
L5A 3A1

FALL FLING - October 5 - 9

Cape Cod, Massachusetts
Contact - TCNE, P.O. Box 2283
Woburn, MA 01888 - 0483 USA
617 - 891 - 9325

FALL HARVEST - October 26 - 29

Contact - St. Louis Gender Foundation
P.O. Box 9433
St. Louis, MO 63117 USA
314 - 358 - 0410

Would your group or support club like to be part of this list?
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Illusions Newsletter
Published by B&B Enterprises
Distribution by B&B Enterprises
Edmonton by Marsha
GST no. R131046112

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